

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly rewrite Claims 1-13 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:*

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated protein selected from the group consisting of:
  - (A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; and
  - (B) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 including substitution, deletion, insertion or addition of one to 20 amino acid residues and has lysine decarboxylase activity.
2. (Previously Presented) An isolated protein selected from the group consisting of:
  - (A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; and
  - (B) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 including substitution, deletion, insertion or addition of one to 10 amino acid residues and has lysine decarboxylase activity.
3. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of:
  - (A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; and
  - (B) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 including substitution, deletion, insertion or addition of one to 20 amino acid residues and has lysine decarboxylase activity.
4. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of:
  - (A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; and
  - (B) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 including substitution, deletion, insertion or addition of one to 10 amino acid residues and has lysine decarboxylase activity.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The DNA of claim 3, which is isolated from the genome of a *Methylophilus* bacterium.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A *Methylophilus* bacterium which produces L-lysine, wherein a polynucleotide on the genome is disrupted, wherein said polynucleotide is ~~selected from the group consisting of a nucleotide sequence identical to the DNA of claim 3, and a nucleotide sequence having homology to the DNA of claim 3 to such a degree that homologous recombination with the DNA occurs, and thereby expression of said polynucleotide is suppressed and~~ the intracellular lysine decarboxylase activity is reduced or eliminated.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for producing L-lysine, comprising the steps of culturing the *Methylophilus* bacterium of claim 8 in a medium containing methanol as a major carbon source resulting in accumulation of L-lysine in culture, and collecting the L-lysine from the culture.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The DNA of claim 4, which is isolated from the genome of a *Methylophilus* bacterium.

12. (Currently Amended) A *Methylophilus* bacterium which produces L-lysine, wherein a polynucleotide on the genome is disrupted, wherein said polynucleotide is ~~selected from the group consisting of a nucleotide sequence identical to the DNA of claim 4, and a nucleotide sequence having homology to the DNA of claim 4 to such a degree that homologous recombination with the DNA occurs, and thereby expression of said polynucleotide is suppressed and~~ the intracellular lysine decarboxylase activity is reduced or eliminated.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for producing L-lysine, comprising the steps of culturing the *Methylophilus* bacterium of claim 12 in a medium containing methanol as a major carbon source resulting in accumulation of L-lysine in culture, and collecting the

L-lysine from the culture.